Southern Region Successes

July 2017 - June 2018

Southern Region Community Development Extension Impacts

- **83,982** Number of jobs created/retained
- **149** Number of new alliances or networks formed through some type of formal agreement or MOU
- **710** Number of businesses created, retained, or expanded
- **282** Number of plans adopted and implemented in community, agency, local government, business, or disaster
- **6,999** Number of participants who report new leadership roles & opportunities undertaken

- **$7,488,075** Value of in-kind resources contributed by organizations or communities
- **$77,864,366** Grants acquired by organizations or communities
- **90.93%** Universities Reporting

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**2017-2018 University Reporting**

- 12 universities reporting
- 90.93% reporting

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**Funding Sources**

- **Grants**
- **In-kind Contributions**
- **Other**

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**Results**

- **Increased Economic Activity**
- **Enhanced Community Engagement**
- **Improved Quality of Life**
Impact Stories

Alabama A&M University
To bridge the gap between aspiring entrepreneurs in Madison County and current entrepreneurs, a pilot business workshop was conducted. During the workshop, a panel of local entrepreneurs highlighted their motivations, while also sharing how they overcame the hindrances and obstacles faced. Over 93% of attendees left aware of how their aspirations spur economic development and motivated to begin their own businesses.

University of Arkansas
Residents of a small Delta town launched Moving Manila Forward. Using Extension's Breakthrough Solutions planning process, the town is focusing on five areas—aviation, economic development, agriculture, downtown revitalization, and quality of life. Among results are three new businesses, 30 new homes built, formation of a ministerial alliance, and new events such as farmers markets, shrimp and movie fly-ins, and a Blazin' BBQ Festival attracting over 3,500 people.

University of Florida
Many pesticide applicators and specialists in the care of trees and plants are required to maintain continuing education units (CEUs) for their licenses and thus higher wage jobs. In one of Florida’s large urban counties over 770 individuals completed CEUs to maintain current licensure. The Core class consists of four hours and the Limited licensure consists of six hours training from UF-IFAS Extension. The jobs retained and those completing the training had $5.1 million higher estimated wages.

Monroe City confronted deteriorating neighborhoods by joining the University’s Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program. They conducted an assessment of over half of its 4,100 housing units and demolished condemned units, applied for federal low-income housing of over half of its 4,100 housing units and demolished

University of Georgia

Arkansas

North Carolina State University
The North Carolina Farmworker Health and Safety Project builds and strengthens relationships between farmworkers and their families, farm labor contractors, and the community. In 2017, the program assisted 114 farmers, conducted 36 training sessions, trained 1,508 farmworkers, hosted seven community events, hosted two farm labor contractor workshops, and led a farmworker partners’ coalition comprised of 19 organizations, and in 2018, the program expanded to six counties in Eastern North Carolina.

North Carolina A&T University
As part of our five-year strategic plan, creating leadership development and civic engagement opportunities for youth is a primary focus. This is carried out through our Community Voices program, whose goal is to develop youth community members who can work together over time, problem-solve, and work with others to carry out initiatives. Another goal is to help community groups develop a shared leadership style among their staff, team leaders, and community volunteers.

University of Tennessee
Three USDA-funded projects supported ($360,000) expansion of fresh stop markets, business planning and market education for producers and production of hops as specialty crops. Summary profiles describing the contribution of agriculture were developed for all 95 counties in Tennessee. A dairy consumer perception survey is underway and a mobile internet hotspot lending program is aimed at bridging the digital divide in three rural communities.

Prairie View A&M University
Community and Economic Development staff continues to assist Hurricane Harvey victims by providing workshops, individual assistance, volunteer coordination, and access to state and federal resources. As a result there were: 10,451 clients assisted; over 800 applications submitted to FEMA, Red Cross, SBA, and USDA rural development; $628,000 in food, water, clothes, supplies, and temporary housing provided; 25 homes repaired; and approximately $18,630,000 in repair fund applications submitted.

Texas A&M University
The Texas Rural Leadership Program (TRLP) Leaders-In-Action workshop series, directly impacted the small community of Hearne (Robertson County). A cross-section of local leaders completed workshops, incubating a local festival to unite people, beyond years of racial tension. On April 14, 2018, Hearne hosted its first Crossroads Hometown Festival, highlighting community assets and a returned sense of public pride.

Tennessee

Virginia Tech and Virginia State University
Virginia declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency in 2016. In response, the PROSPER model was launched in rural Virginia where middle-schoolers and their families participate in programming that prevents opioid and other substance misuse. Next, the Hospital Patient Education program teaches hospital patients and their families the risks of opioids, signs of misuse, safe overdose responses, and resources for pain management.